


MASTER OF ARTS IN

# Human Rights and Social Justice

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

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# Become a leader of a just society—locally and globally.

Turn your bachelor's degree into a Master of Arts in Human Rights and Social Justice, and lead projects for NGOs, government agencies and social services, or prepare for your PhD program.

- Do you consider yourself an activist?
- A humanitarian?
- Do you want to build your social justice skills to expand your career, or are you already responsible for leading change in equity, diversity, and inclusion for your organization?

## Why pursue a MAHRSJ at TRU?

- Get hands-on field experience working on human rights and social justice issues through opportunities with non-profit organizations, all levels of government, the business sector, university research faculty, health authorities and the greater community.
- Expand your understanding about Indigenous ways of knowing with the core course *Indigenous Ways of Knowing: Resurgence of Land Based Pedagogies and Practices*.
- A condensed program structure means you graduate in four consecutive academic semesters (16 months).
- Take innovative, interdisciplinary courses built and taught by teams of experts drawing from all areas within the Faculty of Arts.

## What will I learn?

You have big ideas about what the world's most pressing issues are, and we believe you should have the flexibility to focus your master's education where your interests lie. You can choose to make your program course-based, project-based, thesis-based or complete a creative expression project.

- Discuss social issues like access to water, and what access to water may mean for a village.
- Examine serious issues that hold tremendous professional, personal and organizational costs.
- Become an engaged global citizen and problem solver who can tackle problems from multiple perspectives.
- Critique current systems and provide solutions.
- Position your organization to adapt to a changing world and shifting social mores.
- Navigate the changing landscape of hiring diversity.

COURSE-BASED | THESIS-BASED | PROJECT-BASED | CREATIVE EXPRESSION



*"It's been a really positive experience to go through this program with an amazing group of people who are dedicated to and interested in different elements of human rights and social justice. I feel like we all learn so much from each other. The classes and the faculty are also great. Because it's multi-disciplinary, I feel like we get a very well-rounded approach to things with diverse perspectives and ways of learning."*

*– Jenn Johnson, MA student (home country, Canada)*

## Program Structure

You will complete the three required core courses (HRSJ 5010, 5020, and 5030) in semesters one and two, and will complete the required experiential course (HRSJ 5040) in the third semester, regardless of what completion option you choose. The program lasts 16 months — four semesters.

### COURSE-BASED (E-PORTFOLIO)

Students create an e-portfolio summarizing their experiences and learning within the MA program.

| Semester | Credits |
|---|---|
| First semester | Nine credits (required and elective courses) |
| Second semester | Nine credits (required and elective courses) |
| Third (summer) semester | Three credits of field experience |
| Fourth semester | Nine credits (including HRSJ 5940, the e-portfolio, which you can enrol in beforehand, but only complete at the end of the program) |

### PROJECT-BASED

Students develop and research a project, typically in consultation with a partner organization or group, related to issues of human rights and/or social justice. Students completing the research project option work under the supervision of a faculty project advisor.

| Semester | Credits |
|---|---|
| First semester | Nine credits (required and elective courses) |
| Second semester | Nine credits (required and elective courses) |
| Third (summer) semester | Three credits of field experience |
| Fourth semester | Six-credit research project, which you will enrol in beforehand, but only complete at the end of the program. Plus three credits for the final elective. |

### THESIS-BASED

Students explore and develop an original and substantial research project related to issues of human rights and social justice under the direction of a faculty supervisor and a thesis advisory committee.

| Semester | Credits |
|---|---|
| First semester | Nine credits (required and elective courses) |
| Second semester | Six credits (required and elective courses) |
| Third (summer) semester | Three credits of field experience |
| Fourth semester | 12 credits made up entirely of HRSJ 5910 or 5920, which you will enrol in at the beginning of the second semester, but not complete until the end of the fourth semester—can be extended if necessary |

### CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Students develop an original and substantial creative expression project related to issues of human rights and social justice under the direction of a faculty supervisor and an advisory committee. Creative expression projects can include, but are not limited to, art exhibits, creative writing, theatre production.

| Semester | Credits |
|---|---|
| First semester | Nine credits (required and elective courses) |
| Second semester | Six credits (required and elective courses) |
| Third (summer) semester | Three credits of field experience |
| Fourth semester | 12 credits made up entirely of HRSJ 5910 or 5920, which you will enrol in at the beginning of the second semester, but not complete until the end of the fourth semester—can be extended if necessary |

## Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission to the MAHRSJ program, you should meet the following minimum requirements. Please note, meeting the requirements does not guarantee admission.

### EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

An acceptable four-year undergraduate baccalaureate degree or equivalent in an appropriate discipline (for example, sociology, political science, history, anthropology) from an accredited institution.

A minimum GPA of a 3.3 (on a 4.3 scale) in the last 60 credits at the undergraduate level (exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis if you can demonstrate academic or relevant experiential growth since graduation in the fields of human rights or social justice).

### LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Applicants who did not complete their undergraduate degree in an English language university in a country where English is the primary language, should have one of the following:

- A minimum TOEFL score of 587 with a TWE of 5.0 or higher (paper-based test), or minimum score of 94 with no section below 20 (IBT), or
- A minimum IELTS score of 7.0 (with no band below 6.5), or
- Completion of TRU ENGL 1100 or 1101 and CMNS 1290 or 1291 with a minimum B.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit a letter of intent highlighting experience and enthusiasm related to issues of human rights and/or social justice.

Applicants must submit a CV or resumé.

### ADMISSION PROCESS

The admission committee is keen to engage with students who demonstrate dedication and enthusiasm related to issues of human rights and social justice, and who demonstrate a desire to interact with faculty members, other students, and organizations or groups that work in fields of human rights and social justice. The admission committee may interview applicants, via telephone or other methods, as part of the admission process.

### TUITION FEES*

**Domestic Students:**

$711.58 per credit x 30 credits = $21,347.40 total

**International Students:**

$1,255.76 per credit x 30 credits = $37,672.80 total
*Guaranteed Tuition Rate for 2026/2027*

** Fees in Canadian dollars. Please note, fees do not include general fees or the cost of textbooks. All costs subject to board approval, and to change without notice. Please visit **tru.ca/ma** for the most up-to-date information.*





Christine Conanan, Master of Nursing student and Shannon John, Master of Arts Human Rights & Social Justice student make a drum together, under the guidance of Norman Retasket - Master Drum Maker, in the course Indigenous Ways of Knowing: Resurgence of Land Based Pedagogies and Practices (Fall 2023). The drums were made for children in care.

*"The diversity within our group, with friends from various corners of the globe, has enriched our discussions with many perspectives, fostering an environment brimming with enthusiasm and fresh ideas. This cultural mosaic has been instrumental in broadening my understanding of human rights and social justice on a global scale."*

*– Meryem Boga, MA student (home country, Turkey)*

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